

May 2019

# The Month Ahead At Innova

Grade 1

Mrs. Heidi Di Marco

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Heidi completed an Honours Bachelor Degree in Arts/Science and a Bachelor Degree in Education at Lakehead University. Heidi spent her first year teaching on an Aboriginal Reservation in Quebec and then moved to Newmarket where she was introduced to classical Christian Education through Innova Academy. She was immediately impressed with the respect, self-discipline and perseverance that was displayed in the students of Innova Academy. Heidi is honoured to now work at Innova Academy as the Grade 1 teacher. Heidi loves history, sports and her Sunday School kids. Most of all, Heidi is grateful for the opportunity to share the love of God with her students every day.



Heidi Di Marco  
Teacher

Grade 1



*Grade 1 students are actively engaged in learning foundational knowledge and skills in all subject areas. Our classroom is filled with singing, chanting, movement, and engaging hands-on activities. We seek to provide a safe and nurturing classroom environment where students can deepen their awareness of God's love and relationship with Him, as well as meet their potential for academic success.*

**Christian Education:** During the month of May, students will continue to memorize Matthew 28:5-9. They will then begin memorizing Psalm 136:1-9. Throughout the month, students will study the beginning of the early church by focusing on the following topics:

- Pentecost
- The Apostles
- Ananias and Sapphira
- Stoning of Stephen
- Philip and the Ethiopian
- Saul's conversion
- Peter and the Gentiles
- Peter's escape from prison

**Reading Fluency:** Grade 1 students' reading instruction is individualized based on individual reading assessments. Students will build and refine oral reading fluency and reading comprehension skills by reading in both large and small groups, individually, and at home. Throughout the year, students will:

- Apply phonics skills to reading unfamiliar words
- Continue to build sight word proficiency
- Read clearly with expression observing punctuation
- Use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Read for meaning and respond to content questions
- Draw inferences from the text

**Literature and Vocabulary:** In May, students will study poetry. Students will study the works of Robert Louis Stevenson this month by reading *A Child's Garden of Verses*. Selections include *The Swing*, *The Wind*, and *My Shadow*. Students will:

- Identify sensory language and how it is used to describe people, objects, places, and events
- Identify who is telling a story or providing information in a text
- Make personal connections to experiences in a poem

**Spelling, Phonics, and Penmanship:** Spelling, phonics, and penmanship will be learned together using *Spell to Write and Read* and *Cursive First*. Using a variety of activities and games, students will apply their phonetic knowledge to learn and practice their spelling words. Students will:

- Learn 15 new spelling words each week
- Use those 15 spelling words to construct sentences each week
- Learn the following multi-letter phonogram: *ei, ey, eigh, igh, and dge*

**Grammar and Writing:** In May, students will learn to how write descriptions and book reports. Specifically, students will:

- Learn the elements of a description
- Learn the elements of a book report
- Plan, draft, edit, proofread, and publish a description
- Plan, draft, edit, proofread, and publish a book report

**Latin:** In Latin this month, Grade 1 students will learn the following types of vocabulary words:

- The weather
- The sky
- Water words

# Grade 1 – The Grammar Stage

Innova Academy's grammar school curriculum builds a solid academic foundation, emphasizing mastery of facts and fundamental skills. Grammar stage students have the natural ability to retain large amounts of information, so Innova intentionally builds knowledge across the curriculum immersing students in a holistic, unified, and rich learning experience. Students are actively engaged in learning while applying skills they have previously acquired to new, expansive content. Classrooms are filled with singing, chanting, movement, and engaging hands-on activities. Strong habits of heart, mind, and soul are reinforced, as students become more aware of their impact on others and build skills in self-governance and responsibility.

**History:** This year, students are studying Canada, focusing on Canada's geography, symbols, early settlers, and communities. This month, students will learn what daily life was like for the early settlers of Upper Canada. They will study:

- Farm buildings and farm equipment
- Daily chores
- Transportation in Upper Canada
- How to preserve food
- Seasonal jobs
- The growth of villages

**Mathematics:** Grade 1 students will begin each mathematics period practicing math facts with the CalcuLadder math drill program. Students progress through this program on an individual basis. In the month of May, students will complete a unit on the calendar and time, followed by a unit on money. Specifically, students will learn how to:

- Use a calendar
- Tell time to the hour
- Tell time to the half-hour
- Tell the difference between a penny, nickel, dime, and quarter
- Count money

**Science:** In May, students will continue to investigate materials and objects. Students will then move on to investigating things that make sound. Specifically, students will explore the following questions:

- How can a material's use and properties be changed through manipulating them?
- How can a material's use and properties be changed through heating or cooling?
- How is technology useful?
- How do different sound systems make sounds?
- How can I make a sound system?
- How do sounds change?
- How can tools make a sound system?

**Visual Arts:** Students will paint a landscape sunset inspired by Tom Thomson. Students will also create a pinch pot inspired by Wendat pottery and paint their pottery with ceramic glazes. Areas of study include:

- Painting and colour mixing
- 3-dimensional sculpture
- Form and texture

**Music:** Grade 1 students are busy preparing for the spring concert. As they prepare repertoire, they will continue to develop musical skills in the following areas:

- Singing in tune with good tone quality
- Rhythmic awareness
- Ensemble playing on the Orff instruments
- Following the conductor

**Physical Education:** During physical education time, students will have opportunities to develop spatial awareness, balance, and coordination using their bodies and a variety of equipment. Throughout the year, students are led to develop good sportsmanship while playing games with their classmates. This month's topics include:

- Travelling over and around
- Rhythm and movement
- Body shapes and directions
- Poetry and dance
- Travelling and counting

*Please note that although students in different grades often study the same topic, curricular expectations are tailored to individual grade levels.*

## Upcoming Events

May 2 – Math Olympics – Mississauga Christian Academy

May 3 – Exordium – Parents Welcome

May 7 – Prayer Meeting in Room A at 8:30 a.m. – Parents Welcome

May 7, 14, 21, 28 – Lunch Lady Lunch

May 10 – Parent Morning AND Pizza Lunch

May 20 – Victoria Day – No School

May 21 – Battle of the Books (Gr. 4-8) – Innova

May 24 – Pizza Lunch

May 28 – Track and Field (Gr. 7/8) – Centennial Stadium

May 29-31 – Camping Trip (Gr. 9)

May 30 – Track and Field (Gr. 4-6) – Centennial Stadium AND Grad Night (Gr. 7/8)

Innova Academy aspires to graduate young men and women who will possess the virtues, wisdom, knowledge, and skills necessary for further academic study.